

**MINUTES OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & NATIONAL GUARD  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
Room W010, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex  
Tuesday, January 10, 2006**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sen. Scott Jenkins, Co-Chair  
Rep. David Ure, Co-Chair  
Sen. Fred Fife  
Sen. Michael Waddoups  
Rep. David N. Cox  
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson  
Rep. Neil A. Hansen  
Rep. Ann W. Hardy  
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson  
Rep. Todd E. Kiser  
Rep. Joseph G. Murray

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mark C. Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst  
Rosemary Young, Committee Secretary

**Note:** A list of visitors and copy of handouts are filed with committee minutes.

Sen. Jenkins called the meeting to order at 9:23 a.m. and welcomed all.

Announcement was made of the tour of Mountain View Corridor and Legacy Highway to be taken the same afternoon and a count taken of those planning to go.

Mark Bleazard, the Fiscal Analyst, explained that the Executive Appropriations Committee voted to consider the base budget bill within the first ten days of the session and called for a pre-session meeting of the appropriations subcommittees. S.B. 1 will represent the base budgets for all agencies. The analyst gave a historical background to 2002 when it was necessary to cut budgets and pointed out the wisdom of the committee in having set aside Centennial Highway Funds which facilitated the balancing of the budget at that time. This year's problems are different with an estimated increase in revenues in the amount of \$577,000,000 beyond the FY2006 revenue estimates. There are already over a billion dollars of requests from agencies.

The analyst explained the basis of the preparation of the base budget bill of FY2007 that reflects the general fund appropriations of FY2006 with possible line item adjustments. The bill is already out on the web and will be on legislators' desks Monday morning. This base budget bill includes increases in the Medicaid and minimum school program budgets totaling \$98,000,000.

The analyst passed out a copy of the Compendium of Budget Information for the 2006 General Session and explained the Budget Briefs and Budget Issues which are or will be part of the Budget Analysis

2007 binder. Referring to the Budget Briefs he reviewed the base budgets of the following agencies:

Transportation, Environmental Quality & National Guard Appropriations Subcommittee

January 10, 2006

Page 2

### **National Guard**

Brian L. Tarbet, Adjutant General of the National Guard, assisted by Col. Scott Olson, discussed the impact on their budget of higher fuel costs and reminded the committee that 2005 was a busy year with the floods in St. George, 500 soldiers in Louisiana following Hurricane Rita, and transporting and housing nearly 700 evacuees from the hurricanes. In addition 800 soldiers are on duty in Iraq at the present. Gen. Tarbet also gave a reminder that the maintenance budget is three to one federal to state participation and that 97% of the funding for the active guard is from federal funds thus bringing considerable funds into Utah. The National Guard has three areas of concern: veterans, guard, and Ft. Douglas Museum.

### **Department of Environmental Quality**

Dianne Nielson, Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, assisted by Bill Sinclair, Deputy Director, handed out a folder containing DEQ budget issues, legislative issues, and a summary of the efficiencies implemented by the department in recent years. In response to questions from the committee she discussed how federal monies which support a portion of specific programs are managed by the state and the problems of lack of federal funds for federally mandated programs which results in decreased protection for the people where standards aren't met.

The subcommittee would like to receive some accounting details from the Executive Appropriations Committee. Water loan programs were discussed. The repayments are loaned out again benefitting the water quality in small communities resulting in 99% plus of the citizens of Utah drinking water that meets standards.

Dianne Nielson introduced her staff who will be available to committee members

### **Department of Transportation**

John Njord, Executive director of the Department of transportation assisted by Charles Larsen, Comptroller, and Carlos Braceras, Deputy Director, answered questions from the committee. There was a discussion of the use of in-house and consulting engineers. Currently there are 200 consulting engineers working on Legacy highway. The use of outside engineering services results in the need for a smaller permanent staff. Dir. Njord pointed out that over time operations and maintenance costs are eating up the ability to build roads. The department is taking adequate care of roads but the resources to build roads are gone. The increased cost of fuel will be over a million dollars this year which results in less maintenance being done. In the last year there has been a 70% increase in fuel costs and cost of construction materials. Bridge rehabilitation funds which were anticipated from the federal government

were significantly reduced because of the rating of new bridges in Salt Lake County which changed the formula. This will result in a number of substandard bridges in the next decade.

Transportation, Environmental Quality & National Guard Appropriations Subcommittee

January 10, 2006

Page 3

There was a discussion of soundwalls. Dir. Njord explained that soundwalls are only installed on new projects that impact neighbors, and they are included in project costs. Sidewalks on state roads are in the state budget and are allocated by formula to the counties.

Carlos Braceras, Deputy Director, passed out photographs of the Provo Canyon retaining wall failure and discussed what precautions were taken before and during construction and what the ultimate cause of the failure was. They have not yet determined what the proper fix will be.

Sen. Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 11:46

---

Rep. David Ure, Co-Chair

---

Sen. Scott Jenkins, Co-Chair

Sen Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

---

Rep. David Ure, Co-Chair

---

Sen. Scott Jenkins, Co-Chair